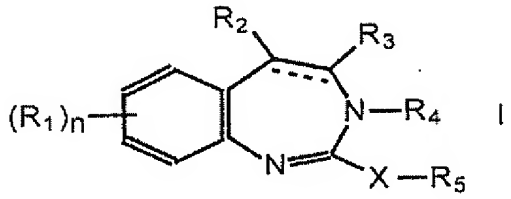
The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A benzodiazepine compound of formula I:



I

in which

the dashed lines indicate the possible presence of a double bond;

R_1 represents optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{18})alkyl, optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{18})alkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxyl or (C_6-C_{18})aryl, which is optionally substituted with optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{10})alkyl, optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{12})alkoxy, halogen, nitro or hydroxyl;

n represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R_2 and R_3 represent, independently of each other, hydrogen; optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{18})alkyl; (C_1-C_{18})alkoxy; (C_6-C_{18})aryl; (C_6-C_{18})aryl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl; heteroaryl; heteroaryl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl; (C_6-C_{18})aryloxy; (C_6-C_{18})aryl(C_1-C_{12})alkoxy; heteroaryloxy; or heteroaryl(C_1-C_{12})alkoxy; in which the aryl and heteroaryl portions of these radicals are optionally substituted with halogen, optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{12})alkoxy, optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{12})alkyl, nitro or hydroxyl;

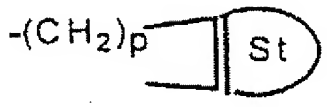
X represents ~~S, O or NT in which T represents a hydrogen atom, (C_1-C_{12})alkyl, (C_6-C_{18})aryl, (C_6-C_{18})aryl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl or (C_6-C_{18})arylcarbonyl~~;

R_4 and R_5 together form a group $-CR_6=CR_7-$ in which CR_6

is linked to X;

R_6 represents a hydrogen atom; (C_1-C_{18})alkyl; (C_3-C_{12})cycloalkyl; (C_6-C_{18})aryl; carboxy(C_1-C_{12})alkyl; (C_1-C_{12})alkoxycarbonyl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl; heteroaryl; (C_6-C_{18})aryl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl; or heteroaryl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl; in which the aryl and heteroaryl portions of these radicals are optionally substituted with (C_1-C_{12})alkyl, (C_1-C_{12})alkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro, halogen or di(C_1-C_{12})alkoxy-phosphoryl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl;

R_7 represents a hydrogen atom; hydroxyl; di(C_1-C_{12})alkylamino(C_1-C_{12})alkyl; optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{18})alkyl; carboxyl; carboxy(C_1-C_{12})alkyl optionally substituted with amino; (C_1-C_{12})alkoxycarbonyl; (C_6-C_{18})aryl; heteroaryl; (C_6-C_{18})aryl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl; heteroaryl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl; (C_6-C_{18})aryl fused to an unsaturated heterocycle, optionally substituted on the heterocycle portion with oxo; or (C_3-C_{12})cycloalkyl; in which the aryl and heteroaryl portions of these radicals optionally being substituted with (C_6-C_{10})aryl, which (C_6-C_{10})aryl radical is optionally substituted with halogen, optionally halogenated (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or nitro; in which the aryl, heterocycle, cycloalkyl and heteroaryl portions of these radicals are optionally substituted with halogen; hydroxyl; hydroxy(C_1-C_{12})alkoxy; optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{12})alkyl; optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{12})alkoxy; carboxyl; (C_1-C_{12})alkoxycarbonyl; nitro; cyano; cyano(C_1-C_{18})alkyl; (C_1-C_{18})alkylcarbonyloxy; (C_2-C_{12})alkylene; (C_1-C_{12})alkylenedioxy; (C_1-C_{12})alkylthio; (C_6-C_{18})arylthio optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; di(C_1-C_{12})alkylamino; a group of formula:



in which p = 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and in which St represents (C_6-C_{18})aryl; -alk-Cy-NH-SO_2-Ar in which alk represents (C_1-C_{12})alkyl, Cy represents (C_3-C_{12})cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su and Ar represents (C_6-C_{18})aryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; -Cy-alk-NH-SO_2-Ar; -alk-Cy; -alk-Cy-alk'-NH-CO-alk" in which alk' and alk" represent, independently, (C_1-C_{12})alkyl; di(C_1-C_{12})alkoxyphosphoryl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl; (C_6-C_{18})aryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; (C_6-C_{18})aryloxy optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; (C_6-C_{18})arylcarbonyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; (C_6-C_{18})arylsulphonyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; (C_6-C_{18})aryl(C_1-C_{12})alkoxy in which the aryl portion is optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; saturated heterocycle optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su; (C_6-C_{18})aryl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents Su;

Su is hydroxyl, halogen, cyano, nitro, optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{12})alkyl or optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{12})alkoxy;

or alternatively R_6 and R_7 together form a C_3-C_{12} alkylene chain optionally interrupted with a nitrogen atom which is optionally substituted with (C_1-C_{12})alkyl or (C_6-C_{18})aryl or (C_6-C_{18})aryl(C_1-C_{12})alkyl, the ring formed by $CR_6=CR_7$ optionally being fused to (C_6-C_{18})aryl, the aryl portions of these radicals optionally being substituted with halogen, nitro, hydroxyl, optionally halogenated (C_1-C_{12})alkyl or optionally halogenated $\underline{(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkoxy}}$ ~~(C_1-C_{12})alkoxy)~~;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof with an acid or base,
wherein the compounds having the following substituents are

excluded: X = S; n = 0; R_2 represents methyl and R_3 represents a hydrogen atom; and R_4 and R_5 together form a group $-CR_6=CR_7-$ in which CR_6 is linked to X, R_6 and R_7 together form a $-(CH_2)_3-$ or $-(CH_2)_4-$ chain or alternatively R_6 represents a hydrogen atom or a propyl group and R_7 is a phenyl group optionally substituted with $-OCH_3$ or a hydroxyl group.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R_3 represents a hydrogen atom.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R_2 represents a hydrogen atom or a (C_6-C_{10})aryl group optionally substituted with halogen, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, optionally halogenated (C_1-C_6)alkyl, nitro or hydroxyl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein n is 0 or 1 and R_1 represents a halogen atom.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein

~~X represents S;~~

R_6 represents a hydrogen atom, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, $C_1-C_6)$alkoxycarbonyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, or (C_6-C_{10})aryl, that is optionally substituted with halogen, hydroxyl, nitro, (C_1-C_6)alkyl or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy; and

R_7 represents a hydrogen atom; hydroxyl; di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl; (C_1-C_{10})alkyl; (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl; (C_6-C_{10})aryl; heteroaryl; (C_6-C_{10})aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl; the aryl and heteroaryl portions of these radicals optionally being substituted with (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl, halogen, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_6-C_{10})aryl, which (C_6-C_{10})aryl radical is optionally

substituted with halogen, optionally halogenated (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or nitro; or alternatively

R_6 and R_7 together form an alkylene chain interrupted with a nitrogen atom optionally substituted with (C_6-C_{10})aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl in which the aryl portion is optionally substituted with halogen, optionally halogenated (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, hydroxyl or nitro.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~Compound according to Claim 1~~, which is

3-(biphenyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

3-(2-furyl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

3-[4-(ethoxycarbonyl)phenyl]-5,6-dihydrothiazolo-[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

3-(biphenyl-3-yl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

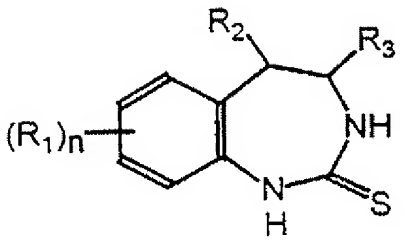
3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine; or

3-(biphenyl-4-yl)-7-chloro-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula I according to Claim 1, in which X represents S, comprising reacting a thione of formula IIa:



IIa

in which n, R_1, R_2 and R_3 are as defined in Claim 1, with an α-halo ketone of formula IVb:

$$R_7\text{-}CO\text{-}CHR_6\text{-}Hal^3 \qquad \text{IVb}$$

in which R_6 and R_7 are as defined in Claim 1, and Hal^3 represents a halogen atom,
in a C_2-C_6 aliphatic carboxylic acid, at a temperature of 90 to 130°C.

13. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 12, wherein the aliphatic carboxylic acid is acetic acid.

14. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 12, wherein the temperature is maintained at 100 to 125°C.

15-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) according to Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for treating dyslipidaemia, atherosclerosis or diabetes ~~or complications thereof~~, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof

an effective amount of a compound according to claim 8 ~~claim 1~~.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method for treating dyslipidaemia, atherosclerosis or diabetes, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

22. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the reaction is at a temperature of 60 to 100°C.

23. (Currently Amended) A compound, which is

3-(biphenyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

3-(2-furyl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

3-[4-(ethoxycarbonyl)phenyl]-5,6-dihydrothiazolo-[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

~~1-(2-furyl)-2-(4,5-dihydro-3*H*-1,3-benzodiazepine-2-ylsulphamyl)ethanone;~~

~~1-(biphenyl-4-yl)-2-(4,5-dihydro-3*H*-1,3-benzo-diazepine-2-ylsulphamyl)ethanone;~~

3-(biphenyl-3-yl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine;

~~1-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2-(4,5-dihydro-3*H*-1,3-benzodiazepine-2-ylsulphamyl)ethanone;~~

3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine; or

3-(biphenyl-4-yl)-7-chloro-5,6-dihydrothiazolo[2,3-b]-1,3-benzodiazepine.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for treating dyslipidaemia, atherosclerosis or diabetes, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 23.

25. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 6, wherein R_6 represents a hydrogen atom, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, or (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl.